

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN THE COMMISSIONERS’ ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA ON MONDAY, JULY 21, 2003. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Vice Chairman Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner George Brown
Commissioner Bill Harper
Commissioner Perry Morris
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk
Commissioner Leon C. Staton

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer
Ray H. Moser, Human Resources Director
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
James R. Sugg, County Attorney

Following an invocation by Commissioner Sampson and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Sisk moved to approve minutes of July 7, 2003 regular session, seconded by Commissioner Staton and unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Tax Releases

Craven County Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, submitted the following routine requests for tax releases for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Brown moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET #	AMOUNT
CURRY, MARGARET MOBILE HOME MOVED PRIOR TO 7/1/2002	2002-0011750	\$ 14.32
GONZALES, EDWIN & LYNN DID NOT OWN 1/1/2002	2002-0019783	\$ 56.94
GRIFFIN, WILLIAM LESLIE & CHAR DOUBLE LISTED WITH ACCT #32195	1999-0019517	\$ 62.28
JOHNSON, DOTTIE MAE HRS PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 1993-TAXED IN ERROR	1993-0023147	\$ 14.80
JOHNSON, DOTTIE MAE HRS PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 1993-TAXED IN ERROR	1994-0023001	\$ 12.24
JOHNSON, DOTTIE MAE HRS PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 1993-TAXED IN ERROR	1995-0023223	\$ 6.30

JOHNSON, DOTTIE MAE HRS	1996-0023810	\$	4.83
PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 1993-TAXED IN ERROR			
JOHNSON, DOTTIE MAE HRS	1997-0024215	\$	5.55
PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 1993-TAXED IN ERROR			
JOHNSON, DOTTIE MAE HRS	1998-0092117	\$	5.13
PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 1993-TAXED IN ERROR			
JOHNSON, DOTTIE MAE HRS	1999-0025322	\$	4.77
PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 1993-TAXED IN ERROR			
JOHNSON, DOTTIE MAE HRS	2000-0026035	\$	4.47
PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 1993-TAXED IN ERROR			
JOHNSON, DOTTE MAE HRS	2001-0026262	\$	4.27
PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 1993-TAXED IN ERROR			
JOHNSON, DOTTIE MAE HRS	2002-0026604	\$	3.77
PROPERTY DESTROYED IN 1993-TAXED IN ERROR			
JONES, DONALD LEE & ORR, KIMBE	2000-0026511	\$	101.24
DID NOT OWN 1/1/2000			
JONES, DONALD LEE & ORR, KIMBE	2001-0026743	\$	102.35
DID NOT OWN 1/1/2001			
JONES, DONALD LEE & ORR, KIMBE	2002-0027072	\$	89.90
DID NOT OWN 1/1/2002			
LEWIEN, JAMES	2001-0029812	\$	73.04
DID NOT OWN 1/1/2001			

17 – CREDIT MEMO(S) \$ 566.20

Budget Amendments

Craven County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, submitted the following budget amendments for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Brown moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Pass Through

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-0564-348-85-00	\$ 52,246.00	101-0564-450-91-85	\$ 52,246.00
Teen Court		Teen Court	
TOTAL	\$ 52,246.00	TOTAL	\$ 52,246.00

Justification: Pass through grant from Governor’s Crime Commission to Mediation Center of Eastern Carolina for Teen Court in the amount of \$52,245.19. No County Match.

Health/CDC – Lead

101-5600-348-45-00	\$ (2,000.00)	101-5600-440-27-00	\$ (500.00)
CDC-Lead Grant		Advertising	
		101-5600-440-32-40	\$ (1,576.00)
		Other Supplies	
		101-5600-440-40-50	\$ 76.00

Temporary Employee			
TOTAL	\$ (2,000.00)	TOTAL	\$ (2,000.00)

Justification: Requested needed to align budget with actual approved State amount.

Health/BCCP-6602

101-6602-349-54-00	\$ 1,253.00	101-6602-440-40-00	\$ 1,253.00
Cancer Control-BCCP		Contract Services	
TOTAL	\$ 1,253.00	TOTAL	\$ 1,253.00

Justification: Additional funds to be received from the State for Cancer Control (BCCP program)

Health/Wic-6010

101-6010-349-03-00	\$ 4,000.00	101-6010-440-26-01	\$ 4,000.00
WIC Client Service		M/R Bldg and Grounds	
TOTAL	\$ 4,000.00	TOTAL	\$ 4,000.00

Justification: Additional funding to be received from the State:
\$1,000-one-time cost to rewire the offices at Cherry Point
\$3,000-one-time cost for ethernet switch-New Bern Office

Cooperative Extension

101-0000-399-01-00	\$ 2,290.00	101-4201-420-40-50	\$ 2,290.00
Fund Balance		Cont Ser Employees	
TOTAL	\$ 2,290.00	TOTAL	\$ 2,290.00

Justification: State Extension Secretarial Salary Analysis resulted in increases for 3 Cooperative Extension clerical staff. Total cost to County \$2,290.

Subdivisions for Approval

Craven County Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, submitted the following subdivisions for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Brown moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Fairview Trail Townhouses Section 2 – Final: The property, owned by Ellis Development Company and engineered by Thomas Engineering, is located within Twp 6 off of Venturi Drive. The subdivision (PUD) contains 14 units on 4.07 acres and is proposed to be served by community water and sewer. The Planning Board reviewed and recommended the subdivision for final approval.

Creekside at Royal Pines Section One – Final: The property, owned by Ellis Development Company and engineered by Thomas Engineering, is located within Twp 6 off of Venturi Drive. The Subdivision contains 36 lots on 22.95 acres and is proposed to be served by community water and sewer. The Planning Board reviewed and recommended the subdivision for final approval.

CRSWMA UPDATE

Allen Hardison, Executive Director of the Coastal Regional Solid Waste Management Authority, provided an overview of the CRSWMA operation, including the history of the agency, board composition, its status relative to local government, funding, annual

operations, facilities, and long-range perspective. During and after the presentation questions were entertained from Commissioners. Commissioner Allen expressed concern for recyclables contained in bulk collections, such as the dumpsters. Mr. Hardison provided an assurance that the Ten Year Plan includes consultation with businesses to identify possible opportunities for reduction in their waste stream by separating recyclables. In response to an inquiry concerning collection of hazardous materials, Mr. Hardison stated that October 18th has been designated for these kinds of collections in Craven County, which include paints and other household hazardous waste. There was discussion concerning the market for cardboard recyclables and the treatment of radioactive materials. Commissioner Harper inquired about equipment that may be available for detecting radioactive materials in collections. Mr. Hardison responded that detection equipment is available to mount on the scales; however, it has proven to be less effective than desirable because it detects everything, even harmless matter. Commissioner Harper did request that a list of sites in North Carolina that use detection equipment be provided to him, along with feedback on how complicated the process is. In summary, Mr. Hardison informed the Board that Craven County, in partnership with the other members of CRSWMA, is operating a state of the art disposal system with fifty to fifty five years of additional capacity. He advised the Board that other disposal options, including gas projects and waste water treatment options, are being explored, and that public input is appreciated.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jan Parker, Craven County Recreation Director, provided a presentation, including the history, staffing, facilities, completed projects, current and upcoming projects of the Recreation Department. She highlighted collaborative efforts with the school system, the community college, and other agencies for utilizing facilities and resources. In addition to several community parks, the Department maintains boat landings at Cowpen Landing and Spring Garden Landing. Ms. Parker noted that the equipment in one of the areas, Rocky Run Park, is old and well used and that the Recreation Department is seeking to upgrade that equipment. Commissioner Sisk inquired why Rocky Run has run down equipment and why it has been necessary for Havelock to seek funding from the Bate Foundation rather than relying on local government funding. She expressed the opinion that more resources are needed in other areas of the County and asked that the Recreation Department make an effort to do more countywide working with the municipalities. Commissioner Sampson asked if more could be done to support Stanley White Center, and voiced his support of a county run swimming pool. Ms. Parker was advised to seek additional funding in her budget to accomplish some of the goals that the Board identified, if necessary.

Commissioner Morris sited an area between his district and Commissioner Brown's district which was part of the flood buyout program, and where there is interest in placing a boat landing. He requested Recreation to research grants that could be used to develop the area.

EMS MATTERS

Tim Harvey, Assistant Emergency Services Director, requested that the Board approve a contract with Holland Consulting Planners for the update of Craven County's Emergency Operations Plan, utilizing funding available through the Homeland Security grants in the amount of \$20,500. Commissioner Allen moved to authorize acceptance of the grant in the amount of \$20,500 and to approve the agreement with Holland Consulting Planners, not to exceed \$17,500. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT MATTERS

Report on NC101 Drainage Issue

Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, stated that the North Carolina Department of Transportation is addressing a drainage issue along NC Hwy 101 and will be working in the next few weeks to execute a solution. He advised the Board that the frequent rain in the past few months has hindered the process, which will now proceed.

Leasing Agreement for Flood Buyout Property

Mr. Baumgardner advised the Board that an application was received from Craig Gatlin to lease buyout property located at 2444 NC Hwy 55 West, which is adjacent to his residence, so that he may maintain it. The subject parcel was included in property that was bought out as a result of Hurricane Floyd floods. Commissioner Morris moved to authorize the Chairman to enter into the lease agreement with Mr. Gatlin, as requested, seconded by Commissioner Harper and unanimously carried.

Clarks and Jasper Community Signs

Mr. Baumgardner reported on requests from citizens to erect community signs in Clarks and Jasper. He stated that a sign in the Clarks Community already exists at the mid-point of the community, which is the Department of Transportation standard. The Department of Transportation, however, has advised that they could install a white County directional sign at the requested location on NC Hwy 55, showing an arrow pointing towards the community. He stated that the Board would need to authorize a letter of request to the Department of Transportation in order to pursue this option. Commissioner Brown moved to authorize a letter of request to the Department of Transportation, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried.

Mr. Baumgardner advised the Board that a mid-point community sign already exists in the Jasper Community also, and that no further action by the North Carolina Department of Transportation is possible.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT AWARD

The Chairman recognized the Craven County Finance Department for having received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the thirteenth consecutive year as a result of Craven County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002. The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, representing significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The plaque was presented to Craven County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, and staff of the Finance Department.

APPOINTMENTS

Water Advisory Board

The Board considered an expression of interest in appointment to the Water Advisory Board from Greg Ruffin, to replace Paul Ruffin, recently deceased. Commissioner Allen nominated Greg Ruffin for appointment to fill the unexpired term of Paul Ruffin. Commissioner Brown moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried, with Gregory Ruffin being appointed by acclamation.

EMS Advisory Council

The Board received a request from Craven County Emergency Services for appointment of Debra Banks to represent the Bridgeton Rescue Squad on the EMS Advisory Council, replacing Sandy Watts; Mary Willis, representing the New Bern Craven County Rescue Squad, replacing Alvin Moore, and Chief Art Dornfeld, representing Cherry Point Naval Hospital to replace Lt. Lucien Laurie. Commissioner Brown nominated Ms. Banks, Ms. Willis, and Chief Dornfeld for appointment, as requested, and moved that nominations be closed. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously, with Ms. Banks, Ms. Willis, and Chief Dornfeld being appointed by acclamation.

NCACC Voting Delegate

The Board was asked to designate a voting delegate to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference being held in Guilford County August 14-17, 2003. Commissioner Staton nominated Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr. and moved that nominations be closed. Commissioner Morris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously, with Commissioner Sampson being designated by acclamation.

Local Government Military Base Advisory Committee

The Board was requested to make two (2) appointments to the Local Government Military Base Advisory Committee currently being formed as a joint effort of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the North Carolina League of Municipalities. The Board was requested to appoint one elected official and one staff person to represent Craven County. Commissioner Brown nominated Commissioner Staton to serve as the elected official. Commissioner Morris moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried, with Commissioner Staton being appointed by acclamation. Commissioner Staton nominated County Manager, Harold Blizzard, to serve as the staff person. Commissioner Brown moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Morris, with Mr. Blizzard being appointed by acclamation.

Workforce Development Board

The appointment of a representative to represent organized labor was deferred from the Board's previous meeting. Commissioner Allen nominated Mr. Joe Graser, who represents the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. Commissioner Staton moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Sisk, with Mr. Graser being appointed by acclamation.

Board of Equalization & Review

At its last meeting the Board deferred an appointment to the Board of Equalization & Review to fill the unexpired term of Sandra Rice, who resigned. Commissioner Allen nominated Mr. William Thomas Rice. Commissioner Staton moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Sisk and unanimously carried, with Mr. Rice being appointed by acclamation.

Upcoming Appointments – August

The Board was advised of upcoming appointments on the Airport Authority, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the COG EMS Advisory Council. These were deferred until the Board's next meeting in August.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, asked that Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, provide an update on the 1996 school bond. Mr. Hemphill reminded the Board that he had previously discussed the refunding of the 1996 school bond; however, he stated that a

decline in interest rates during the last week has made the proposed refunding less attractive. Originally \$711,000 in gross savings was projected when he addressed the Board concerning this matter in May. At the current rate the gross savings are projected at \$347,000, which reflects a savings rate of 2.5%, as opposed to the original projected rate of 4.7%. He advised the Board that the Local Government Commission favors savings rates of 3% or better. He recommended that if the rate does not improve by the deadline for moving forward, the bond should not be refunded at this time. Since bonds can only be refunded once, the County would forfeit future opportunities to refund the bonds at a more favorable rate.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Harper distributed a resolution Opposing Reinstatement of the Five Dollar License Plate Fee to fund Global Transpark, and requested that the Board read it and consider it. In addition, he raised questions concerning the time limits for petitioners to the Board.

Commissioner Brown reported on the benefits that he received from attending the NACo Annual Conference in Milwaukee, stating that he had attended workshops on Rural Development and Transportation, Regional Security, and Disaster Planning.

Commissioner Sisk reported that she had attended Economic Development workshops at the NACo Annual Conference and expressed appreciation to staff for logistical assistance to aid mobility during the conference.

Commissioner Staton reported that the Homeland Security workshop which he attended at the NACo Annual Conference was very helpful and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend and the knowledge that was shared.

Commissioner Morris requested that a resolution be drafted supporting the Navy's Environmental Impact Statement, relative to the siting of an Outlying Landing Field and the basing of Super Hornets. He also stated that in the future he would request that the Board address the subject of water tap fees.

Commissioner Allen noted that Secretary, Tommy Thompson, during his presentation at the NACo Annual Conference, emphasized that emergency preparedness is a local issue because the response to disaster is local. He also advised the Board that he had attended the Conference of the National Association of Local Boards of Health at the conclusion of the NACo Annual Conference. He requested information concerning the contact for Jaycee Fairgrounds rental, stating that he had received complaints from citizens over the weekend responding to a concert that was held at the fairgrounds. There was discussion concerning this matter, as several Commissioners had calls from citizens complaining about the noise and the fact that the Sheriff's Department could not enforce the noise ordinance before 11:00 p.m. Commissioner Sampson stated that he would contact the Sheriff's Department concerning these complaints.

Commissioner Sampson reported on highlights of the NACo Conference, stating that 5,000 Commissioners had been in attendance at the conference.

At 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk